

# District Court Judge

## Kirsten L. Swanson, First Judicial District



### OTHER:

Judge Swanson moved to Alaska 23 years ago after her honorable discharge from the Judge Advocate Corps where she served as a captain in the U.S. Army. She worked for two years in the Juneau Public Defender Agency and then for eighteen months as an Assistant Attorney General before opening her own law office. In private practice Judge Swanson specialized in criminal defense, child in need of aid cases, and family law. Judge Swanson practiced in military, federal, state and municipal courts. In October 2016 Governor Walker appointed Judge Swanson to the Juneau District Court bench.

### STATEMENT:

It has been an honor to serve on the District Court bench. I strive to apply the law fairly and impartially. The district court is the place most people encounter the court system, and they have a right to expect fair treatment. All parties have the right to be treated with respect and dignity.

Many of the people who appear in district court suffer from addiction or mental illness. I am grateful for the opportunity to preside over the Juneau Coordinated Resources Project and the Juneau Therapeutic Court. These courts help break the cause and effect of addiction which leads to crime and the destruction of families. Witnessing the success of these court programs is very rewarding.

I hope to continue serving my community and the people of Alaska for many more years.

# Alaska Judicial Council Evaluation

## Judge Kirsten L. Swanson, Juneau District Court

The Alaska Judicial Council finds Judge Swanson met or exceeded performance standards, and recommends a **“YES”** vote for another term in office

**Other performance indicators:** The Council reviewed other performance indicators for Judge Swanson, including financial and conflict of interest statements, whether pay was withheld for an untimely decision, how often parties disqualified her from cases, and appellate reversal rates. Judge Swanson performed well in these areas.

Judge Swanson was appointed to the Juneau District Court in October of 2016. Judge Swanson handles civil and criminal cases. This is her second retention evaluation.

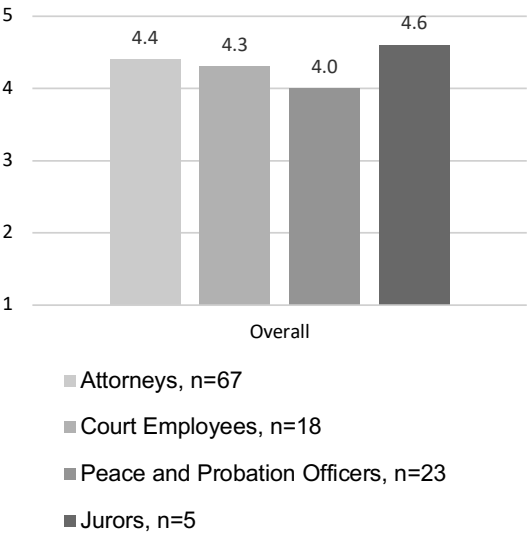
**Summary:** After conducting its performance review, the Judicial Council determined that Judge Swanson met or exceeded performance standards on all criteria, including legal ability, integrity, impartiality/fairness, temperament, diligence, and administrative skills. The Council further concluded that Judge Swanson complied with judicial ethics standards.

The Alaska Judicial Council therefore **recommends a “yes” vote** to retain Judge Swanson in office.

**Survey ratings:** Attorneys and peace and probation officers who appeared before Judge Swanson gave her excellent reviews, as did court employees and jurors. One juror commented, “Excellent experience.” The chart shows some of the survey ratings received by Judge Swanson. Complete survey ratings are available at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us).

**Professional activities:** The Council’s review of Judge Swanson’s professional activities showed significant contributions to the administration of justice and her community. Judge Swanson made contributions in the areas of committee service, therapeutic courts, and youth activities. A detailed list of Judge Swanson’s professional and community activities is posted at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us).

Justice System Professionals' Survey  
Ratings for "Overall" Job  
Performance



Rated on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor)

\*Judges are rated by different groups depending on caseloads.

Find this judge’s full performance evaluation at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)